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C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 002736

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: PML DEBATES MUSHARRAF'S OPTIONS

Classified By: Anne W. Patterson, for reasons 1.4 (b)(d)

1. (C) Summary. In an August 15 meeting with Ambassador, Pakistan Muslim League (PML) leaders outlined their realistic best case scenario. However, the other conditions mirror what COAS Kayani told Ambassador in a conversation (septel) earlier in the day.

PML leaders believe it is in their interest to delay the process to set Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif against each other; they will use parli

2. (C) Ambassador and Polcouns met August 15 with Pakistan Muslim League (PML) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Opposition Leader Pe

3. (C) Shujaat said that Musharraf had not yet decided what to do. It was down to two choices: resign before charges are filed or resig

4. (C) Elahi disagreed, saying it would be better for Musharraf to resign before impeachment charges are filed; however, there were condit

U.S. Views

5. (C) Asked what the U.S. wanted or feared, Ambassador said that we did not want Musharraf humiliated; he should be able to live in Pakis

6. (C) Ambassador said it would be far better for Pakistan's image if Musharraf were allowed to remain in Pakistan rather than flying off

Time Factor

7. (C) Shujaat argued that time was on the PML's side; if they waited long enough, Asif Zardari and Nawaz Sharif would turn on each other.

Ambassador said she hoped she had ended Zardari's attempts to make that unfounded allegation. Elahi indicated that Musharraf was planning to

8. (C) Elahi, a former Speaker of the National Assembly, also said the PML had a few parliamentary tricks to play that would prolong the p

Next President

9. (C) Shujaat and Elahi would not identify a candidate they would support to replace Musharraf. "That will be up to the coalition," sai

10. (C) Comment: The Chaudhrys seemed resigned to debating, not if but how and when Musharraf would leave office, and they see the value

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